

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

August 10, 2020

6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium of the County Administration Facility, with Chairman Roy Costner presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on August 6, 2020.

Council Members in Attendance:

Roy Costner, Chairman

Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman

Wes Hendricks, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Carl Hudson

Trey Whitehurst

Ensley Feemster

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the meeting of August 10, 2020 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Trey Whitehurst led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Roy Costner opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens signed up to speak.

The Clerk advised there were no public forum speakers signed up to speak this evening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to approve the following minutes as presented:

- July 13, 2020
 - Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

COVID-19 Response Briefing

Mr. Roper updated Council on COVID-19 cases in Pickens County. Mr. Roper stated there are currently 270 cases reported in Pickens County, within the last 14 days. He stated there have been twenty-seven (27) deaths in Pickens County due to COVID-19. He advised a total of 1,858 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (and 5 probable) have been reported in Pickens County since March 20th, 2020. Mr. Roper stated there are 18,037 cases reported in SC, within the last 14 days. The total number of confirmed cases in SC is 100,431, and the total of probable cases to 728, resulting in a combined cumulative total of 101,159. He stated this brings the number of confirmed deaths to 1,966 and probable deaths to 83.

Mr. Roper presented to Council a chart of COVID-19 cases and deaths, from March 19 – August 6. This chart showed the active cases in Pickens County, total cases in Pickens County, and deaths in Pickens County.

Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Roper stated that staff received an instruction from our Finance Director to submit their five year capital improvement plans by September 4th. He stated we are going to be more formal through this approach and have individual meetings with individual departments on their capital plans in the next five years. He stated we will also take it to the Committees who need to hear these plans, such as the Emergency Services Board. He stated the goal is to bring Council a five year capital improvement plan in October.

Comprehensive Plan Survey

Mr. Roper stated that 2020 is a Comprehensive Plan year. He stated we are required to go through this process. He stated a comprehensive planning process usually involves a lot of public meetings. He stated we have the services of the POND Company, which is a very interactive and sophisticated website, which will allow citizens to do online surveys that mark specific areas of concern in the county. He stated this will be open to the public.

Mile Creek Park Update

Mr. Roper presented to Council Mile Creek Park Revenues from January 2019 – July 2020. He stated that Mile Creek Park has been very busy through the COVID-19 pandemic, and was closed two weeks in April 2020. Mr. Roper stated there was a 164.77% increase in Camping Revenue in 2020, and 60% increase in Day Pass Revenue in 2020.

Councilman Whitehurst asked about the expenses at Mile Creek. He stated we need to make sure we have enough services at Mile Creek considering more people.

Register of Deeds

Mr. Roper stated in July 2019, a total of 1,868 documents were processed. He stated in July 2020, a total of 1,937 documents were processed. Mr. Roper stated in July 2020, our revenue was \$283,000, and last year it was \$201,000. He stated in July 2020, 69 more documents were recorded and \$82,000 more revenue was collected, compared to July 2019.

Community Development

Mr. Roper presented Key Performance Indicator Charts for Pickens County Building Permits. He stated we have more building permits now than we did last year at this time. He stated we are seeing good, continued development in Pickens County, despite COVID-19.

New Recycle Center Hours Effective August 9th

Mr. Roper stated he provided an email to Council letting them know that we are changing the Recycle Center Hours, effective August 9th. He stated in February of 2020, Vice Chairman Bowers asked about recycling centers. He stated he believes that Staff can find a way, in the budget, to get these recycling centers open 6 days a week. Mr. Roper stated the recycling centers are now open Monday-Saturday from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM. He stated he thinks this is great progress as the public has been asking to open the centers on Wednesdays. Mr. Roper stated we figured out a way to do it and stay within our budget. Mr. Roper stated he understands there may be citizens not happy with the change of hours, and staff will be keeping a close watch on if we need to make adjustments.

Vice Chairman Bowers stated he is assuming that Mr. Roper did research on this, and what the cost will be.

Mr. Roper stated staff has been looking into this for some time. He stated any adjustments beyond this; staff will need Council to help regarding the budget process. He thanked Councilman Bowers for the challenge.

Mr. Roper stated he would like for Council to add to Executive Session an employment discussion regarding the Public Works Department.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Committee of the Whole met in the Auditorium, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, July 13, 2020, immediately following the Council meeting. All members of the committee were in attendance, with Chairman Roy Costner presiding.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Chairman Roy Costner stated the meeting will begin with Log No. 146 – 2020 Recreation Funding Recommendations.

2020 Recreation Funding Recommendations – Log No. 146

- The Committee reviewed the recommendations for recreation funding provided by the Recreation Funding Advisory Board and had detailed discussion.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks made a motion to fund the Pickens County YMCA a total of \$2,750 with District 3 funds, and a total of \$2,750 with District 5 funds, for a grand total of \$5,500. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
 - The Committee had detailed discussion on Hagood Mill’s request.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks made a motion to remove Hagood Mill from the Recreation Funding. Councilman Trey Whitehurst seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously (6-0).
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he has a total of \$102,470.54 in District 3 Funds. He stated he is recommended funding the Pickens County YMCA a total of \$2,750.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks made a motion to recommend funding the remaining balance of District 3 funds to the City of Pickens, for a total of \$99,720.54. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- ❖ After detailed discussion, the Committee recommended the following:

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Comments
1	SC Interscholastic Cycling	\$ 2,000.00	
DISTRICT 1 TOTAL:		\$ 2,000.00	

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Comments
2	SC Interscholastic Cycling	\$ 2,000.00	
2	Town of Six Mile	\$ 14,305.00	
2	Central Parks and Recreation	\$ 15,000.00	
DISTRICT 2 TOTAL:		\$ 31,305.00	

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Comments
3	City of Pickens	\$ 99,720.54	
3	Pickens County YMCA	\$ 2,750.00	
DISTRICT 3 TOTAL:		\$ 102,470.54	

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Comments
4	Liberty Recreation Booster Club	\$ 12,700.00	

4	SC Interscholastic Cycling	\$ 2,000.00	
DISTRICT 4 TOTAL:		\$ 14,700.00	

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Comments
5	Pickens County YMCA	\$ 2,750.00	
5	City of Easley Parks & Recreation Dept.	\$ 50,000.00	
DISTRICT 5 TOTAL:		\$ 52,750.00	

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Comments
6	Dacusville Recreation	\$ 37,580.78	
DISTRICT 6 TOTAL:		\$ 37,580.78	

- **Log No. 146- Chairman Costner stated no second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. He asked for all those in favor to signify by raising their hands. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

2020 Accommodations Tax Recommendations – Log No. 147

- Mr. Roper stated there were 11 recommendations that came out of the previous Committee of the Whole meeting. He stated the Committee had questions on which events were still taking place, and which were being rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated Allison Fowler, PRT Director, will be updating Council on these changes.
- Mrs. Fowler let Council know of the changes, stating:

Sponsoring Organization/ Name of Project	Original Date	Rescheduled Date
Town of Central/HUK Central Pro AM Disc Golf Tournament	May 2020	May 2021
Town of Central/Central Railroad Festival	April 2020	October 31, 2020
Hagood Mill Foundation/ Seleguda: Native American Festival	November 2020	Still on schedule for November 2020
Hagood Mill Foundation/ Banjo Extravaganza	July 2020	Cancelled – no reschedule date
Clemson Blues Festival/ Greater Clemson Music Festival	Series of Events	Has backed up all events to Fall 2020
POSAM/ Winter Blue Grass Jubilee	January 2021	January 2021

Dacusville Heritage Association/ Dacusville Farm Show	September 2020	2021
Senior League World Series	June 2020	June 2021
Pickens County Humane Society/ Rockin' for a Reason	Fall 2020	Still scheduled for Fall 2020

- Council had detailed discussion on these Accommodations Tax Applications and recommended the following:

Ref No.	Name of Organization	Name of Project	Recommended Amount	Comments
1	Town of Central Parks and Recreation Department	HUK Central Pro AM Disc Golf Tournament	\$ 4,000.00	
2	Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce/Visit Clemson	Visit Clemson Annual Tourism Promotion	\$ 0	<i>The Committee recommends staff to request proposals before moving forward.</i>
3	Town of Central, Central Area Business Council, Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce	Central Railroad Festival	\$ 3,000.00	
4	Hagood Mill Foundation	Seleguda: Native American Festival	\$ 2,000.00	
5	Hagood Mill Foundation	Banjo Extravaganza	\$ 1,000.00	
6	Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail	UHQT Development & Promotion	\$ 6,600.00	<i>Recommends the Organization work with caveat of Pickens County</i>

				<i>PRT Department on Marketing.</i>
7	Clemson Blues Festival, Inc.	Greater Clemson Music Festival	\$ 5,000.00	
8	POSAM	Winter Bluegrass Jubilee	\$ 6,000.00	
9	Dacusville Heritage Association	Dacusville Farm Show	\$ 4,000.00	
10	Senior League World Series/Little League International	Senior League Baseball World Series	\$ 25,000.00	<i>Recommends the Organization work with caveat of Pickens County PRT Department on Marketing.</i>
11	Pickens County Humane Society	Rockin' for a Reason	\$ 0	<i>Council does not recommend funding at this time.</i>
TOTAL			\$ 56,600.00	

❖ **Councilman Wes Hendricks made a motion to approve the above Accommodations Tax Recommendations. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).**

- **Log No. 147- Chairman Costner stated no second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. He asked for all those in favor to signify by raising their hands. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

AN ORDINANCE NO. 586 TO AMEND THE PICKENS COUNTY PROCUREMENT ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE AS AN ADVISORY GROUP ACCORDING TO SECTION 2-296 – Log No. 154

- Mr. Roper stated at the last meeting, Council stated they would like to have some type of business representation on Alliance Pickens. Council had discussion at the last meeting on how to define the business representation at the last meeting.
- After some discussion, Mr. Roper stated his recommendation is to put in the ordinance a representative from small business, and Council determine who is should be.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated every department in the country defines what is different for a small business. He stated some look at number of employees, some look at revenue, etc. He stated there are different categories for what you would consider small business.
- Chairman Costner stated he believes we just need to change the ordinance on having a small business representative serve on the Alliance Pickens Board. He stated all we are doing is changing the ordinance to require a small business representative to serve on the board, and then picking that representative the same way we do the Alliance Pickens Board through boards and commissions.
- After much more discussion, the Committee asked this be on the next Committee of the Whole agenda.

❖ **No Action taken by the Committee.**

- **Log No. 154 – No Action Taken by the Committee.**

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Roy Costner announced the following:

- The Committee of the Whole meeting will meet on Monday, August 17th at 6:00 PM in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Facility.
- There will be a Marketing Work Session to discuss the new county branding on Monday, August 24th at 6:00 PM in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Facility.
- Non-Essential County Offices will be closed on Monday, September 7th in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.
- Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the next Council Meeting will be on Monday, September 14th at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium of the Administration Facility.
- Chairman Costner stated he met with Dr. DeHay, President of Tri-County Tech, and he has agreed to set up a quarterly meeting to open the lines of communication to find the things going on at TCTC. He stated they were able to reissue some of their bonds to get a lower rate and they were going to save over \$14,000 in next year's budgeting to Pickens County.
- Chairman Costner stated he would like to have a special-called meeting on Monday, October 26th to discuss the Capital Improvement Plan.

Chairman Roy Costner called for other council correspondence. Seeing no other correspondence, Chairman Roy Costner announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for motion period.

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to add Public Works to Executive Session on this evening's agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to add FLC Fund to the agenda this evening. Motion was seconded by Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for new business. Hearing no items for new business, Chairman Roy Costner closed the floor.

FLC FUND *(as added during Motion Period and New Business)*

Mr. Roper stated the FLC Fund is the Forfeited Land Commission. This is the company, created by state law that bids in for property, when no one bids on it, at the delinquent tax sale. He stated for example, someone didn't pay their taxes and when we get to the auction, no one wants the land. Mr. Roper stated under the operation of state law, the forfeited land commission bids the taxes due and they are awarded the property. He stated the law then allows the FLC, which is ran by the treasurer, auditor, and register of deeds, to sell the property on whatever terms they deem is appropriate to the County. He stated as a part of Council's Economic Stimulus, you all asked to earmark the money for road issues that might help our businesses or communities. He stated there is an example where we can use this at the Ortec site between Easley & Liberty.

After more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst stated he does not want this to become a political thing. He stated we are trying to take some excess money to direct it to something that is beneficial for everyone. He stated this is for small projects.

Mr. Roper stated he will report back to Council when the money is used so Council will see that we are on task and we will get a good precedent going and go from there.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated there was a lot of confusion in the meeting when we originally discussed it. He stated we left this discussion very unclear in the past and the one note that stuck out to him was that Council discussed Economic Development, Economic Structure and Roads. He stated he does not want this money to sit there because no one knows how to use it. He stated any improvement done on infrastructure ties to Economic Development. He stated he wanted to make sure it is not just sitting and not being used.

PICKENS COUNTY YOUTH BOARD FROM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Chairman Costner stated the Pickens County Youth Board from Behavioral Health Services was not able to be here this evening. He moved forward to the next item on the agenda.

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM PICKENS COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Mr. Roper introduced Stephanie Howard, Library Director, to fill Council in on this request.

Ms. Howard stated Mr. Jim Gregory approached the Library about donating some land that is adjacent to the Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library in Easley, SC. She stated the Library now sits on what was his families land and it was a stretch of land between Wendy's and the Library. She stated he does have some conditions, which are that Pickens County and the Library pay for the closing costs associated with the land, and that a small plaque/monument be placed on the site in honor of Mr. Gregory's mother. Ms. Howard stated Mr. Gregory would be willing to pay for that monument. She stated the third condition would be that the land belongs to the Library/County and it will not be sold. She stated the Library Board would like to move forward with this donation.

Vice Chairman Bowers asked if we have the current stipulation of not being able to sell land on the Library property.

Mr. Roper stated there is a statue on this, and he does not believe it is easy. He stated the Attorney will have to look this up.

Councilman Whitehurst asked if the Library has a plan on what to do with this land.

Ms. Howard stated the plan is to clean it up a little, and if there is room, put some benches on the property.

After more discussion, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion by resolution to accept this gift with the contingency provided, to cover the closing costs. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and the resolution approved unanimously (6-0).

SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 589 TO AMEND THE ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ORDINANCE FOR PICKENS COUNTY SO AS TO MAKE IT MORE UNIFORMLY APPLY TO ACCOMMODATIONS WITHIN THE COUNTY.

Mr. Les Hendricks, County Attorney, stated he looked at the County accommodations fees and the state has an accommodations tax. He stated the amendment he presented to Council is to make it in conformance with the state accommodations tax so it is clear. He stated this is an accommodations fee that is 3% of the gross proceeds of any accommodations, but the state has a 7% tax. He presented Council with a copy of the State's statute.

After some discussion between Council & Mr. Hendricks on this ordinance, Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to constitute second reading of Ordinance No. 589.

- o Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 588 TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SEC. 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to constitute third reading of Ordinance No. 588.

- o Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Discussion on County Policy of Alcohol – *Committee of the Whole*
 - o Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):

Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a). Chairman Costner further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

- o Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five minute recess.

Contractual Issues- Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

- Easley Library
- Project Jericho
- Project Arnold

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- Employment Discussion regarding Public Works Department (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Chairman Roy Costner called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Contractual Issues- Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

- Easley Library – **No Action Taken.**
- Project Jericho – Councilman Ensley Feemster made a motion for Project Jericho to do due diligence, not to exceed \$50,000. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Project Arnold - Chairman Costner made a motion to move forward with phase two on Project Arnold. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0).

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Employment Discussion regarding Public Works Department (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)- Councilman Ensley Feemster made a motion to authorize the Administrator to adjust salary ranges for Class A and Class B drivers. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0).

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Roy Costner, Chairman of County Council